

AIRGRAM

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TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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BIA
ANALYST'S INSTITUTION
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FROM : Embassy PORT-AU-PRINCE

DATE: November 6, 1962

SUBJECT : Haitian Collaboration in the Cuban Crisis

REF : Embassy telegram No. 212, October 22

The telegram under reference reported President Duvalier's equivocal reaction to the Ambassador's démarche soliciting full Haitian cooperation in meeting the international crisis resulting from the discovery of Soviet missile bases in Cuba (see also memorandum of conversation pouched to ARA and INR). [redacted] told the reporting officer that he had been reliably informed about events in the Palace following the Ambassador's talk with Duvalier. He said the President's advisors had been divided on the question of whether Haiti should support the U.S. resolution in the OAS. He said among those supporting collaboration with the United States were Foreign Minister René CHAMBERS and Undersecretary Adrien RAYMOND. Among those opposed to collaboration was Fritz CHERAS, the President's new Executive Secretary who had previously served in the Embassy in Mexico. It was finally agreed, according to informant, that if Mexico and Brazil opposed the resolution, Haiti, too, would oppose it; otherwise, Haiti would support the resolution. [redacted] did not know what form the consultation with these two governments took, but he felt sure that their position was verified before Haiti cast its vote the following morning.

It would appear from the tone of Duvalier's replies to President Kennedy's letters, from the Foreign Ministry's communiqués, and from the treatment of the subject in the press that Duvalier has made a virtue of necessity and is hoping to demonstrate by his close collaboration that his government merits continued economic assistance and that the opposition can take no encouragement from U.S. hostility to his regime.

For the Ambassador:

Charles Wm. Thomas
Second Secretary of Embassy

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☒ In☐ OutFORM
4-62 DS-323

Drafted by:

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Comments and Classification Approved by:

DCM:EduCurtis

Clearances:

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